GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4005
ANSWERED ON:20.08.2001
ADOPTING OF SAFETY MEASURES BY FERTILIZER PLANTS
AVSM, BRIG.(RETD.) KAMAKHYA PRASAD SINGH DEO

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some private sector fertilizer plants are not taking adequate safety measures as there was leakage of Amonia gas in Oswal Fertilizer Plant at Paradeep in Orissa and has been creating serious health hazard since long in the locality;

(b) if so, the action taken against the owner of such plant; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure the safety of the people in that locality ?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R.BAALU)

(a) Fertiliser plants are required to take safety measures to required under various statutory provisions including Factories Act, 1948, Indian Explosives Act and Rules, 1983, Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Manufacture Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemicals Rules, 1989.

As informed by Orissa Pollution Control Board, leakage of ammonia from the Phosphatic Fertiliser Complex of M/s Oswal Chemicals & Fertilisers Ltd. in Paradeep, Orissa occurred on two occasions, the first one on 24.05.2000 and the second one on 01.11.2000. While there was no adverse environmental impact on the first occasion, ammonia level in ambient air varied from 0.8 ppm to 18.4 ppm after the second incident. However, there have been no reports of persisting health hazard.

(b & c) In Orissa, safety measures taken by the industry are looked into by the Chief Inspector of Factories and Boilers, OrissaA safety audit was conducted through Director General, Factory Advice Services & Labour Institute, Sion, Mumbai for implementation of the recommendations of the Chief Inspectorate of factories. The Central Govt. and Orissa Pollution Control Board have also inspected the site and issued direction under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974,directing the industry to take immediate action for safety and improved environmental management. Further, Orissa State Pollution Control Board has filed a case against the company in the Court of Sub-Judicial District Magistrate, Jagatsinghpur, Orissa under the provisions of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 .